

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM PINS BR AR
SUBJECT: MONTONERO CHARGES AS CARRIED IN BRASILIA NEWSPAPER

REF: BUENOS AIRES 2772

1. NEWSPAPER STORY CITED REFTEL APPEARED IN MARCH 20
EDITION OF JORNAL DE BRASILIA AND PROVIDED DETAILS OF
A BRIEFING BY MONTONERO REPRESENTATIVES (APPARENTLY IN
MADRID) TO SPANISH AND OTHER FOREIGN JOURNALISTS.
MONTONEROS REPORTEDLY MADE THE FOLLOWING CHARGES:

A) APPROXIMATELY 140 POLITICAL DETAINEES WERE EXECUTED
IN ARGENTINA DURING THE PERIOD 18 DECEMBER 1976 TO 3
FEBRUARY 1977.

B) AT THE SAME TIME, 63 GUERRILLAS WERE LOST IN COMBAT
WITHOUT A SINGLE ONE HAVING BEEN CAPTURED ALIVE, DUE TO
THEIR SYSTEMATIC MURDER BY SECURITY FORCES. (GOVERNMENT
LOSSES DURING THIS PERIOD WERE PLACED AT 23 KILLED AND
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40 WOUNDED.)

C) NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN ARGENTINA IS NOW
APPROXIMATELY 20,000.

D) MANY PERSONS HAVE BEEN EXECUTED INDISCRIMINATELY
IN REPRISAL FOR GUERRILLA ACTIONS, ONE EXAMPLE BEING

THE DISCOVERY FEBRUARY 1-3 OF 19 CORPSES IN THE VICINITY OF THE 1ST ARTILLERY GROUP BASE IN CIUDADELA-- VICTIMS OF EXECUTIONS IN REPRISAL FOR A JANUARY 28 GUERRILLA ATTACK ON THE UNTI, IN WHICH THREE POLICEMAN DIED.

E) THOSE "DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MASSACRES" INCLUDED GEN. SUAREZ MASON, II CORPS COMMANDER GEN. LEOPOLDO GALTIERI, 1ST BRIGADE COMMANDER GEN. ALFREDO SAINT JEAN, AND VARIOUS COLONELS.

F) FOKKER 27 TRANSPORTS FROM THE PALOMAR MILITARY AIR BASE (1ST AIR BRIGADE) HAVE BEEN FLYING TO THE CAMPO DE MAYO, WHERE THEY PICK UP DRUGGED PRISONERS ESCORTED BY THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE OFFICERS, WHO INJECT THE PRISONERS WITH CYANIDE AND DUMP THEIR BODIES FROM THE AIRCRAFT THREE MILES OFF THE COAST IN THE VICINITY OF MAR DEL PLATA. ALLEGEDLY THESE ARE THE CORPSES WHICH HAVE BEEN APPEARING OFF THE URUGUAYAN COAST IN RECENT MONTHS.

2. MONTONEROS ALSO COMMENTED CRITICALLY ON SOCIAL SITUATION IN ARGENTINA, POINTING TO SHARP DROP IN WORKERS' WAGES AS COMPARED TO MILITARY AND MILITIA COMPENSATION; EXPRESSED HOPE THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD SHOW "AS MUCH ENTHUSIASM IN HIS PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN MARTYRED ARGENTINA AS IN THE SOVIET UNION"; AND DECLARED THAT SINCE BEGINNING OF GUERRILLA STRUGGLE, MONONEROS HAVE LOST 30 PERCENT OF THEIR INITIAL EFFECTIVES.

3. BRAZILIAN PRESS SUBSEQUENTLY COVERED THE RELEASE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARCH 23 OF AN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT, BASED ON THE NOVEMBER 1976 VISIT TO ARGENTINA OF A MISSION HEADED BY LORD AVEBURY, CONGRESSMAN ROBERT DRINAN, AND PATRICIA FEENEY OF AMNESTY. WE WOULD BE PLEASED TO PROVIDE SUCH DETAIL ON CONTENT AS IS AVAILABLE LOCAL PRESS REPORTING, IF REPORT IS NOT ALREADY FAMILIAR TO YOU.
CRIMMINS

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